

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Guban Chemical Products Factory	DATE DISTR.	8 May 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Guban Factory is the only plant in Rumania which produces chemicals for the leather industry. It is located at Strada Victor Babes No. 21, Timisoara, and is controlled by the Ministry of Light Industries. It was nationalized in January 1952. The factory is named after its former owner, who has remained as manager because of his good relations with the Communist Party.
2. The factory produces shoe-polish, Bison leather dyes, colored dressing for chamois skins, varnish, Ago leather glue, and Sidel metal polish. The average monthly output is valued at 10 million lei. About 40 per cent of this sum is made up by Bison dyes, 30 per cent by shoe-polish, and the remainder by other products.
3. A sum of 500 million lei has been allocated under the Five-Year Plan to enlarge the factory and increase its output, but such work has not yet begun.
4. Casein, used in the production of Bison, is obtained as a by-product from milk processing factories at Arad, Targu Mures, and Bucharest. Powdered dyes, packed in sacks, come from the I.G. Farben Works in Eastern Germany and from the USSR, packed in containers of 20 to 30 kgs. About 1,000 to 2,000 kgs. of dyes were received per month, 60 per cent of which comes from Germany. No further dyes were obtained from Germany after the end of 1951, but consignments from the USSR continued.
5. Supplies from USSR are not sufficient for the factory's needs. They are of such poor quality that, in order to avoid trouble with the consumers, the factory notes on the product that it is made of Soviet raw materials. Samples of dyes were obtained on one occasion from Czechoslovakia. The order was not repeated because of the poor quality of the dyes.
6. Turpentine and paraffin for shoe-polish are unobtainable. For the past two years the factory has used two petroleum derivatives, Ceara de Albina and Ceara de Montan, as substitutes.

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25 YEAR REVIEW

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7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. About 1,000 to 1,500 liters of alcohol are received monthly from Arad and Timisoara.
10. The factory's entire output is marketed locally. Bison and chamois dyes go to the leather factories, of which the largest purchasers are the Janos Herbag factory at Cluj (4,000 workers), the Ipr Factory (Industria Romana de Piele) at Timisoara (800 workers), Talpa in Bucharest (2,000 workers), Simion Băznutiu at Sebes Voda, and the Prima Fabrica de Incaltaminte in Bucharest. Bison is sold at 50 lei per kg., including a 37 per cent purchase tax.
11. All other products are sold to various state stores in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Light Industry. Payment is made through the State Bank only, and all bills must be paid within 20 days of receipt of the goods. In case of delays fines of 1/10 per cent per day are imposed.
12. The factory employs 65 workers, 11 clerks, four technicians, and 2 engineers. The bookkeeping department consists of a head bookkeeper and three assistants; the finance department, which is responsible for both the supply of raw materials and the marketing of the product, has three clerks; the planning department has 4 clerks; and two engineers and four technicians supervise productions. There are about 65 workers, half of them women, working one shift only.
13. The factory is supplied with electricity by the municipal power station. Monthly consumption is about 2,000 KW. (Electricity is supplied at 0.90 lei per KW for industrial purposes and at 1.20 lei for domestic use.)
14. Machinery consists of four old electric Dresden rollers with a total capacity of 40 tons per month, three electric mixing machines of Rumanian make, seven double boilers of Rumanian make (three with a capacity of 100 liters each and four with a capacity of 50 liters each), and a number of small machines for packing.
15. A severe shortage of dye-stuff (which has repeatedly caused the factory to shut down for several weeks), other imported raw materials, and local raw materials (such as Casein and alcohol) have lowered the factory output to only seven to eight tons per month. This is but a fifth of its maximum capacity.
16. The following officials of the factory are known:
- a. Blasiu Guban, manager [REDACTED]
 - b. Dr. Josef Philipps, chief engineer [REDACTED]
1. Comment: According to our records Timisoara does not have a university.

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